CHAPTER 7

DRUG/EXPLOSIVE DETECTOR DOG TRAINING AND USE

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7-1. The Purpose of Training. Detector dog teams (DDTs) require continual proficiency training to maintain skills necessary to perform required tasks. Without frequent reward reinforcement for correctly performing a task, the dog would lose its proficiency rapidly. Likewise, the ability of the handler to identify and respond to the dog's behavior is lessened.

7-2. Where to Train. Training should be conducted in areas that closely simulate actual tasks required to perform. Due to the lingering scent of people, recently vacated facilities add realism to explosive detection training. To ensure all security personnel understand the capability/uniqueness of DDTs, demonstrations should be provided for non-MWD personnel. The following factors should be varied for each training period to avoid repetitious patterns:

a. The general training area.

b. The time of day of the exercise.

c. The number, type, and amount of training aids used.

d. The specific location of the training aid placement within the training area.

e. The type of training aid container, i.e., cloth bag, cigar box, paper bag, etc.

f. The type of distractor material planted with the training aid.

g. The length of time the training aid is left in place before the search.

h. The person used to handle/plant training aids. Disposable clear plastic food handlers gloves should be used to prevent contamination.

i. The height/depth training aids are planted.

j. The size of the room/area in which the aids are planted, i.e., auditorium, office, closet, desk drawer, etc.

k. The handler's attire (explosive detection training) to parallel realistic situations, i.e., flak vest/helmet, casual civilian wear, business suits (as required during Presidential tasking).

7-3. When to Train. Training exercises should be conducted during the handler's normal shift and as often as needed to prevent loss of proficiency. Important factors are the quality of training and the length of time lapsed between task performances. Establish a training schedule, kept in the MWDs training record, that maintains peak proficiency.

7-4. Proficiency Trials. Proficiency trials are conducted at least once per week by the kennel supervisor to test the reliability of assigned DDTs. Training aids will be planted within the dogs current proficiency level by someone other than the assigned handler. Proficiency levels are outlined in appendix H. The handler will not know the location of trial aids. During proficiency trials, the MWD will receive a positive or negative score for each aid. Explosive detector dogs (EDDs) should receive a minimum of five aids per odor per month and drug detector dogs (DDDs) should receive 10 aids per odor per month. The MWD's monthly proficiency percentage is derived from the results of proficiency trials. Documentation requirements are described in appendix B.

7-5. MWD Proficiency Training Plan. The kennel master/handler should identify existing deficiencies/corrective actions and develop a MWD proficiency training plan. Additionally, the training plan should include the necessary criteria to increase detection proficiency capabilities as outlined in appendix H. The training sessions should follow the guidelines described in the training plan to achieve desired goals.

7-6. Proficiency Training. Proficiency training is conducted by the kennel supervisor/handler to correct deficiencies, and to

increase the level of detection. Initial training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) taught the dog to follow a search pattern and to recognize/respond to a learned odor. Detector dogs possessing only these basic skills are not fully prepared for real world situations. They will be required to search for long periods of time, under adverse conditions, locating drug/ explosive odor that has been masked, sealed, or otherwise concealed. Once assigned to a command, it is the kennel supervisor/handler's responsibility to conduct advanced training to ensure the MWD is fully proficient and effective to meet the required mission. Ensure sufficient training to maintain required proficiency standards is conducted for excess MWDs.

a. The first step in MWD training is to define a goal and establish the criteria to achieve that goal. Using the successive approximation method, the handler establishes the criteria necessary for the MWD to meet before it is considered to have learned the new task. For example, in order for the MWD to be considered proficient at a new task, it must successively locate and respond to a training aid, planted at a predetermined height and depth, five times per day for 10 consecutive days.

b. During proficiency training, the handler must know the exact location of each training aid and assist the MWD in locating the substance by using the training technique that produces the optimum result. During training sessions, handlers will not allow the dog to "walk" a training aid at anytime. If the handler notices a positive change in the dog's sniffing behavior, he/she will wait until the MWD locates source (training aid location) and responds to the substance. If the response is not at source, a sufficient amount of time should be allowed for the MWD to locate source on its own. Handlers should not use hand presentation to solve this problem as it conditions the dog to rely on the handler to locate source. An effective method is for handlers to shorten up on the leash and position their bodies preventing MWDs to leave the odor. For high areas, the command of "hup," with a verbal reinforcement of seek, may be used.

c. Proficiency training will not be used to calculate a MWDs monthly proficiency percentage. However, proficiency training time will be documented as outlined in appendix B.

d. Proficiency training/trials may be conducted during the same session. The training aids used for trials will be identified by an asterisk or yellow highlighted on the OPNAV 5585/6, Canine Validity Test Data, to allow for easy reference during proficiency percentage/time calculations.

7-7. Training Definitions/Common Deficiencies/Corrective Actions. All dogs are different and the handler should determine and apply the training techniques that produce the optimum behavior. The following definitions are provided to assist in applying techniques:

a. The Conditioning Model. This model is used to train a dog new tasks and handlers/trainers must be able to apply it at all times. The model is described below:

(1) Stimulus Discriminative (SD) - input the dog receives from any of its senses, i.e., command.

(2) Response (R) - action the dog takes as a result of that input.

(3) Reinforcement (RF) - what the handler does as a result of that action, i.e., reward.

b. Just Noticeable Difference (JND). JND is the dog's ability to be able to detect slight changes/differences pertaining to a specific sense, i.e., smelling of a weak odor as opposed to a stronger odor, the hearing of low volume noises as opposed to louder volumes, and the feeling of light pressure as opposed to progressively heavier pressure.

c. Absolute Threshold (AT). There must be a certain amount of odor concentration for the dog to detect. This minimal level of odor is referred to as the dogs AT and it is a JND between no detectable odor and enough for the dog to recognize. The AT is a fixed amount of odor that is required in order for the dog to recognize it.

d. Point of Saturation. This means that when a stimulus concentration is raised to or beyond that point, the dog can no

longer detect an increase/decrease in the concentration of that stimulus. When a dog locates a higher JND, it will search for one still higher and so on until it either reaches source or the point of saturation.

e. Successive Approximation. This is a method used to train a MWD to perform a new task. The dog is taught a more complex task through a series of simpler tasks using intermediate goals. Never advance the dog until proficient at each step. The handler/trainer should identify the final desired behavior, break that behavior down into a series of simpler behaviors, and teach the behaviors one at a time. The final goal will be achieved as the dogs learns the simpler tasks. To keep from confusing the MWD, change only one variable at a time, i.e., height/depth.

f. Some of the common deficiencies with detector dogs and the corrective action is listed below:

(1) Fringe Response. The dog does not respond (sit) at the source of the odor.

Conditioning Model Example #1

SD	R	RF
Dog encounters absolute threshold	Dog sits at absolute threshold	(a) Reward the dog (b) Work the dog closer using presentation, and reward the dog when it responds on source (c) Withhold reward until dog responds on its own.

If the training aid is placed in locker #3, the dog may encounter fringe odor and respond on locker #1 or #2. If the dog does this in training, it probably does it in actual searches. This might account for why the dog has non-productive responses in locations

where drugs are probable. In the example above there are three different RFs to choose from.

In (a), the handler rewards the dog for the response and using successive approximation ensures that each subsequent response given by the dog is closer to the source before rewarding. Handlers choosing (a), may eventually achieve the desired results; however, this method may take longer to reach the desired behavior as the dog is rewarded for sitting on fringe odor.

In (b), the dog is conditioned to rely on the handler to present the area where it is supposed to sit. If this is done in actual searches where the handler does not know the location of the substance, the dog will still rely on the handler to make a hand presentation. To eliminate this problem, apply the learning model.

The only portion of the learning model that the handler can change is the reinforcement. Handlers should think about how the dog is affected by their actions and what can be done to change the information given to the dog. The dog is conditioned each time it's rewarded that the response was correct and will continue to make similar responses for further rewards. The goal is to reward the dog for responding on source, not fringe, without handler assistance.

The best solution is (c), withholding the reinforcement until the dog displays the optimum behavior. By withholding the reinforcement, the dog is conditioned to solve the problem on its own and will eventually start searching in an attempt to locate the exact location of the training aid. This technique should not be done to the point that it frustrates the dog. Find a balance in your corrective actions.

(2) False Response. The dog has a problem with false responding (FR). Detector dog teams that are prone to FRs lose probable cause reliability and credibility.

Conditioning Model Example #2

SD	R	RF
Unknown	Dog sits, no odor present	(a) Escape dog away (b) Do not allow the dog to sit (c) Stand still and wait for the dog to get up and begin searching on its own.

Handlers choosing RFs (a) or (b) above are conditioning the dog to rely on the handler to provide information. Statistics indicate that normally these reinforcements do not solve the FR problem. The most effective method, while the dog is in the FR position is (c), the handler should stand perfectly still and watch the dog. After no reward is received, the dog will start searching again on its own. This is called extinction training whereby the dog learns that the FR behavior yields no positive reinforcement.

(3) Walking the Training Aid. The dog has a problem with smelling a learned odor and not responding. During actual searches this could be disastrous.

Conditioning Model Example #3

SD	R	RF
Dog encounters AT	Dog does not respond	(a) Circle dog back to aid (b) Tap back (c) Do not allow dog to leave the odor.

MWDs must be conditioned to respond on source the first time they comes to it. Selecting RFs (a) or (b) above, the dog learns not to respond at AT the first time because it is conditioned to rely on the handler to bring it back to the training aid. The correct RF is (c), to not allow the dog to walk out of odor once its encountered. The handler must know the exact location of the training aid and once the dog indicates it is on odor, hold position giving the dog only enough leash to work to source.

(4) Scanning. The dog does not search using a methodical pattern missing productive areas.

Conditioning Model Example #4

SD	R	RF
Seek	Dog searches, using no pattern missing productive areas	(a) Use hand presentations (b) Block the dog using handler's body (c) Use systematic aid placement.

The RF in (a) and (b) are incorrect. This conditions the dog to rely on the handler for all areas to be searched. Hand presentations are distracting and introduce a variety of novel odors directly to the dogs nose. The dog must then discriminate between the odors on the hand and that of a training aid. Blocking the dog with the handlers body tends to frustrate the dog and only provides a temporary solution. The correct RF is (c), to systematically use aid placement to condition the dog to search productive areas. Scanning is often caused by handlers placing the first training aid 10 or more feet into the training session causing the dog to forge ahead in an attempt to locate the first aid. Aid placement helps keep the dog in the proper search pattern, sniffing productive areas along the way. It also helps to reduce/eliminate presentation and handler blocking. It

is important that handlers do not exceed the time/distance that the MWD must work before receiving RF.

7-8. Procedures for Changing MWDs Reward. The MWDs reward is determined during initial training at Lackland AFB and noted on the MWD Service Record, DD 1834. The selected reward drives the dog's behavior and although the dog may appear to be motivated by another reward, the motivation usually is not sustained and will negatively affect proficiency standards. If the kennel master/supervisor determines the need to change a MWDs reward, the following should occur:

a. Screen MWD training records for MWD's previous reward difficulties.

b. Contact Law Enforcement/Physical Security (LEPS) Assistance Team for guidance.

c. Forward requests for reward change via the appropriate chain of command to the MWD program manager at CNO (N09N3)/ NAVCRIMINVSERV (Code 24F).

7-9. Procedures for Locally Training Patrol Dogs for Detection Capabilities. When a command determines the need to locally train patrol dogs for detection capabilities, the following criteria must be complied with:

a. Screen MWD training records for previous detector training.

b. The command must have assigned personnel knowledgeable of proper protocol training.

c. Request authorization via the chain of command to the MWD program manager, prior to commencing any training.

d. Upon completion of training, MWD will be evaluated by the LEPS Assistance Team for certification and stock number change. EDDs must be evaluated by the LEPS Assistance Team prior to actual detection use.

7-10. Use of Detector Dog Teams (DDTs). DDTs are the most capable and versatile resource for the detection of illegal drugs/explosives. MWD use is coordinated at each command within the constraints imposed by military/federal law. The local Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) and reference (I) can provide advice and updated guidelines pertaining to proper search/seizure. All searches will be conducted within these guidelines without exception.

a. Publicity of the presence and effective use of DDTs may help reduce illegal drug use/trafficking and the introduction of explosives. When a patrol MWD team is used in law enforcement/security operations, the public may assume the team is trained in drug/explosive detection, which acts as a strong deterrent.

b. Base ingress/egress gates provide an excellent drug/explosive check point. The key to successful interdiction and enforcement operations at gate/check points is through practical assignment times/locations.

c. For safety purposes, only those individuals trained to assist a MWD team will be permitted to actively participate in training scenarios/operational evolutions. Additionally, for safety and liability purposes MWD teams will not be used to conduct searches of individuals. Command representatives will be advised to maintain a safe distance from the MWD.

d. The date, time, and location of the search will not be published. Requests for DDTs by telephone/message are not recommended as the element of surprise may be lost. Individual contact is always the best method.

e. The minimum number of personnel, preferably only the commanding officer, executive officer, and security officer/ provost marshal, need to have prior knowledge of the search.

f. The areas to be searched should be cleared of all non-essential personnel. No one should be allowed to remove suitcases, sea bags, parcels or other items. Personnel who must

dress to leave the area should be observed to prevent the removal of small parcels/contraband.

g. All vents, fans, windows and air conditioning units should be secured, except in cases of explosive detection, prior to the arrival of the MWD team in order to permit maximum retention of scent.

h. The area to be searched should be cleared of all toxic/volatile substances, paints, metal/wood shavings, broken glass, oil/grease spills, powdered substances, unsecured foods, and other items which might distract or be harmful to the MWD team. The MWD handler may refuse to search any space not considered safe.

I. Photography will not be permitted during actual searches; however, demonstrations may be arranged through the kennel master/local public affairs office.

j. In order to avoid possible injury, all routes used by the MWD team should be cleared of personnel.

k. MWD handlers are available for testimony concerning their operations at non-judicial, judicial, or administrative proceedings.

7-11. Services Not Provided By DDTs. The DDTs sole function is to indicate, on the basis the dog's response, the suspected location of controlled substances/explosives. The team will not provide the following services:

a. Laboratory testing services for suspected contraband.

b. Legal advice, other than to testify to the dogs' abilities.

c. Provide emergency ordnance disposal services.

7-12. On Base Searches/Inspections. The use of a DDT to discover illicit narcotics must be authorized by the search granting authority over the particular facility to be searched.

The command authorization rule applies to all searches, including random vehicle inspections conducted at ingress/egress points, barracks, buildings, vessels, or aircraft. It is permissible for a single authorization to permit several operations; however, use of a DDT must be command authorized in cases where the Fourth Amendment becomes a factor. Common areas such as vehicles in parking lots are subject to inspection by DDTs at any time as they are considered exterior inspections.

a. To justify ordering a search, the search granting authority must have assurance regarding the ability of the detector dog to successfully detect drugs/explosives. The probable cause folder, as described in chapter 6, demonstrates that the DDT is reliable enough to establish probable cause to authorize further searches of suspect items/areas.

b. Searches will be conducted at the direction of the search granting authority. All functions concerning the search, i.e., coordination, personnel assignment, duration, etc., shall be the responsibility of the search granting authority or security officer/provost marshal.

c. The kennel master/supervisor, will cancel/reschedule a search due to the non-availability of teams, higher priority commitments, or MWD health reasons as approved by the security officer/provost marshal. The requesting command will be notified as far in advance as possible.

d. The kennel master/supervisor is authorized to terminate any search for reasons of misconduct, hazardous situations, or noncompliance with requirements of this instruction. Within 2 working days, the kennel master/supervisor shall prepare a letter of cancellation to the requesting command.

7-13. Off Base Searches/Inspections. The installation commander can approve direct requests from local law enforcement per reference (j). Additional information for support of Federal, State, and local law enforcement is located in chapter 9 of this instruction.

7-14. Shipboard Use. The use of MWDs aboard ship present special problems that require careful planning. It is the kennel supervisor/handler's responsibility to introduce the MWD to shipboard operations as follows:

a. When introducing a MWD to a ship, choose a day/time, if possible, that the ship is not at full operating tempo. Conduct several walk throughs of all areas including movement up/down ladders. Some ladders are constructed in a manner that may cause MWDs to catch their toe nails, which could be pulled out. Other ladders are so steep that the MWD might refuse to negotiate them. Prior conditioning of the MWD should alleviate these problems. Kennel masters anticipating using detector dog teams aboard ship should train on shipboard type ladders during obedience course training.

b. Conduct simple training scenarios, as necessary, until the MWD can effectively work throughout the ship, including machinery and engineering spaces. MWDs should not be directly exposed to flight operations due to the high probability of hearing damage. Caution should be exercised by handlers to ensure that they do not overwork the MWD, particularly when working in hot areas, such as engine rooms.

c. The handler is responsible for cleaning up all stool/urine.

d. Handlers should be aware of shipboard ventilation systems and their possible effects.

e. MWD teams used in support of U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) counter drug operations should contact the USCG for assistance in the training/use.

f. Storerooms. Handlers should be very conscious of the safety risk for the MWD throughout the search.

g. Machinery Spaces/Engine Rooms. Handlers must remember that these spaces are a safety/health hazard to the MWD because of various types of fumes/heat. The MWD must be kept on enough

leash to work effectively and given frequent relief from the heat.

h. Galleys/Sculleries. These areas should be inspected routinely as any other space. Searches should be conducted during non-meal hours.

7-15. Detection in Vehicles. Most vehicle searches are conducted in an open area environment and have many distractors such as passing autos, people working in and around the area, and curious bystanders. Ensure driver and passengers exit and remain away from the vehicle.

a. The handler must be able to distinguish the dog's interest in extraneous odors in and about the vehicle, i.e., dog urine, human odors, etc., from an actual response.

b. When searching the exterior of a vehicle ensure MWD sniffs door seams, undercarriage, engine compartment, and trunk.

c. Do not allow the MWD to enter the vehicle unless the MWD detects odor from the outside and further inspection is necessary.

7-16. Detection in Aircraft. Familiarize the MWD with odors that are peculiar to aircraft/support equipment. Vehicle movement may be present in the area, and aircraft that just landed will contain a large amount of human odor and food stuffs. The following is the recommended search procedure for aircraft:

a. Approach the aircraft approximately 15 to 20 feet from the downwind side and begin the search. Move nose to tail or wing to wing, depending on the wind direction. Move to the nearest downwind point on the aircraft where the MWD team can check the accessible parts such as landing gear, wheel wells, and cargo hold. If possible, search the cargo hold with the baggage inside; however, if it is too confined, the baggage must be unloaded and checked separately. Ground power units and vehicles that are in close proximity to the aircraft will also be cleared.

b. The aircraft commander or crew chief should be present during the search and should assist in identifying suspicious baggage or anything that may seem out of place.

c. After the outside area has been thoroughly searched, proceed to the inside area. If the search is started from the front of the aircraft, the cockpit should be cleared before entering the passenger area. When searching the passenger compartment, use a back and forth pattern; check the back, front, and under each row of seats. In searching a cargo aircraft, such as a C-130, use the same search pattern used to clear buildings.

7-18. Detection in Warehouses. These areas present unusual problems because of wind circulation, distractions, and inaccessibility to all productive areas. Large areas should be broken down into several smaller areas. The handler must ensure that the MWD maintains a high-low systematic pattern. Non-essential personnel and other distractions should be kept to a minimum to enhance the team's efforts.